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To the Churchwardens and Overſeers of the Poor of the Pariſh of Yorsford. ... in the Hundred of BLYTHING.

GENTLEMEN,

"YOU are already apprized that in conſequence of the high price of Wheat "the following Plan has been propoſed to the ſeveral Pariſhes in this Hundred, "namely, That each pariſh ſhall provide that article for all the *neceſſitous* Poor be- "longing thereto, whereſoever they ſhall be reſident within the ſaid Hundred, from "the 22d of February inſtant, until the 1ſt of September next, at a price not exceed- "ing Six Shillings per Buſhel, and at the rate of half a peck per week to each perſon "in a family; or, inſtead of wheat an equal weight of wheat meal, and that ſuch "wheat be provided, and the expence thereof defrayed in ſuch manner as ſhall be "agreed upon by a meeting or meetings to be held for that purpoſe in each reſpec- "tive Pariſh; provided the Corporation agree that the additional rates lately aſſeſſed "on the ſeveral Pariſhes ſhall not continue longer than the preſent quarter, and pro- "vided the Corporation continue to make their uſual and accuſtomed allowances in "caſes of old age, lying-in women, ſickneſs, or infirmities and burials."

THE above Plan was ſubmitted to the conſideration of a Special Meeting of the Directors and Acting Guardians of the Poor in the ſaid Hundred, held at Haleſworth, on the 2d Inſtant, and was by the unanimous opinion of that Meeting recommended to the ſerious conſideration of every Pariſh in the Hundred, in full aſſurance that the gene- ral adoption of it, would prove the moſt probable means of enabling the Corporation to reſtore the rates to the former aſſeſſment, or at leaſt of preventing in future any conſider- able increaſe thereof beyond that ſtandard: in conſequence of which recommendation, I have to inform you that all the Pariſhes, except Bramſton, Cometh, Wenhaston, Westleton, and Wrentham, ... have agreed to adopt the Plan; but a difficulty having been ſuggeſted by ſome, reſpecting the means of carrying it into exe- cution, and a wiſh ſignified that ſome general Plan could be deviſed for the regulation of the whole, I take the liberty (without preſuming to preſcribe any particular direction) of offering the following hints to your conſideration, which together with ſuch others as the local circumſtances of each Pariſh may ſuggeſt, will, I truſt, be found ſufficient, not only to obviate any difficulty that may ariſe, but in ſome degree aſſiſt in the accompliſh- ment of a Plan, tending as well to the preſent comfort and ſatisfaction of the Poor, as to the future intereſt of the ſeveral Occupiers within the ſaid Hundred, viz.

THAT a Veſtry Meeting be immediately called in each Pariſh, to take an account of all the poor families reſiding therein and belonging to the Hundred, who ſhall come un- der the deſcription of *neceſſitous Poor*, and be conſidered as objects of the propoſed re- lief; diſtinguiſhing thoſe belonging to the Pariſh in which ſuch meeting is held, and thoſe belonging to other Pariſhes in the Hundred. A liſt of the latter to be then made and ſent as ſoon as poſſible to the Churchwardens and Overſeers of thoſe other Pariſhes

where they do belong, ſpecifying the names and number of children in each under 13 years of age, in order that ſuch other Pariſhes may have an opportunity of ſignifying their wiſhes reſpecting the intended relief to be granted to ſuch families.

THAT a calculation be made of the quantity of Wheat that will be wanted in your Pariſh for the ſupply of the Poor according to the propoſed Plan, from the 22d Inſtant, to the 1ſt of September next, in order that a ſufficiency may be reſerved by the principal Occupiers.

THAT a granary or other proper place be provided in your Pariſh, for the reception and diſtribution of the Wheat provided for this purpoſe, which may be laid in at ſuch times and in ſuch quantities, as ſhall be thought proper by the firſt or any ſubſequent Veſtry Meeting.

THAT a proper ſupply of Wheat may be ſecured, either by each Occupier furniſhing a certain proportion according to his Aſſeſſment to the Poor Rates, at ſuch times and in ſuch quantities as it ſhall be agreed upon to be called for by perſons properly appointed for that purpoſe, or, by raiſing a ſum of money ſufficient to purchaſe ſuch a ſupply till the next quarter-day, or any longer time that may be judged proper. And as many ſchemes may be ſuggeſted for raiſing the money, I beg leave to ſubmit to you whether any one can be adopted with more eaſe and leſs liable to error and confuſion, than by the principal occupiers depoſiting in the hands of ſome proper perſon or perſons to be appointed by the Veſtry Meeting to receive it, ſuch a ſum of money in proportion to their aſſeſſments to the Poor Rates, as ſhall be neceſſary to purchaſe the quantity of Wheat wanted for the time then agreed upon; ſuch depoſit to be repeated as often as occaſion ſhall require, and the money received by the ſale of the Wheat to be returned to ſuch Subſcribers at the end of the preſent and each ſucceeding quarter in proportion to their reſpective Depoſits.

THAT the Loſs ariſing upon the Wheat thus ſold, ſhall be borne by all the occupiers in proportion to their reſpective aſſeſſments to the Poor Rates; but in caſe any of the owners or principal inhabitants within any Pariſh ſhall think proper to contribute by a voluntary ſubſcription in addition to their quota according to the aſſeſſments, it would be a means of enabling ſuch pariſhes to eaſe the ſmall occupiers therein, (who may otherwiſe be oppreſſed by the preſent burthen beyond what they can well afford,) and it is preſumed where ſuch voluntary ſubſcriptions are made, the juſtice and propriety of applying the ſame for that purpoſe, will have due weight with the liberality of the larger occupiers.

THAT at the firſt or any ſubſequent veſtry meeting, a committee be appointed for the purpoſes of ſtating the ſituation of the Poor, buying in and delivering out the Wheat, or Meal, and keeping the accounts thereof, to conſiſt of not leſs than three or five of ſuch inhabitants of each pariſh as may be thought proper.

THAT a veſtry meeting be held at leaſt once a month to examine the accounts, and to continue the ſame committee or appoint another, if they ſhall think proper for the above purpoſes.

THAT the account of the Wheat disposed of to the poor belonging to, as well as those not belonging to your parish, but residing therein, be kept and bills thereof made, according to the two annexed schemes, and that the several parishes settle with each other, for their respective poor at the meetings appointed by the corporation for the payment of the quarterly assessments; the first settlement to be made at such of the said meetings, as shall first happen after the commencement of this plan.

THAT in case any of the above parishes of Brampton, Covehith, Wenhaston, Westleton, and Wrentham, - should not be disposed to concur in adopting this plan, and any of your poor be residing in those parishes, and not allowed Wheat at a reduced price, would it not be expedient to endeavour to supply them from your parish in the same manner as your resident poor are supplied, upon proper application being made to you for that purpose; but with respect to the poor (if any) belonging to the above named parishes, and who may reside in yours, common justice to yourselves seems to require that such poor should apply for what assistance they may be in need of, either to their own parish, or to the corporation until the next quarterly meeting, by which time it is hoped the benefit of this plan will be sufficiently apparent to induce them to comply with it; if not, that the good intentions of the many may not be frustrated by the few, it is presumed the corporation will be enabled to adopt such measures, as will be equitable and satisfactory to those parishes who thus voluntarily come forward in support of their poor.

AND in order to prevent misunderstandings and disputes between the several Parishes respecting the price to be charged to each other for the Wheat delivered to their respec- Poor, it seems advisable that some certain price should be fixed and ascertained for the whole Hundred, and none appears to me more equitable than that the same be fixed from this time, until the first meeting for settlement, according to the average price of Wheat at Halesworth Market, during that period, from the weekly returns of the Corn Inspector there, and the same for each succeeding quarter.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Huntingfield, February 18th, 1796.

Wm. Philpot

Five o'Clock – [illegible]

That the account of the Wheat disposed of to the poor belonging to, as well as those not belonging to your parish, but residing therein, be kept and bills thereof made, according to the two annexed schemes, and that the several parishes settle with each other for their respective poor at the meetings appointed by the corporation for the payment of the quarterly assessments; the first settlement to be made at such of the said meetings as shall first happen after the commencement of this plan.

That in case any of the above parishes of [illegible] - - - - - - - - - should not be disposed to concur in adopting this plan, and any of your poor be residing in those parishes, and not allowed Wheat at a reduced price, would it not be expedient to endeavour to supply them from your parish in the same manner as your resident poor are supplied, upon proper application being made to you for that purpose; but with respect to the poor (if any) belonging to the above named parishes, and who may reside in yours, common justice to yourselves seems to require that such poor should apply for what assistance they may be in need of, either to their own parish, or to the corporation until the next quarterly meeting, by which time it is hoped the benefit of this plan will be sufficiently apparent to induce them to comply with it; if not, that the good intentions of the many may not be frustrated by the few, it is presumed the corporation will be enabled to adopt such measures, as will be equitable and satisfactory to those parishes who thus voluntarily come forward in support of their poor.

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102 : 9 : 10
59 : 5 : 2

Mr Barnaby(?) — 1 - 1 - 6
Mr [illegible] — 3 - 7 - 6
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I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Huntingfield, February 18th, 1796.